

Silver Strings Dulcimer Society

Soundboard

January 2010

26 YEARS SHARING ACOUSTIC MUSIC 1983-2009

Issue 297

Website : www.ssdociety.org

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I've been reflecting back over the events of this past year and my head is spinning. However, I think it was still spinning from all of the December playdates (15 altogether in 17 days). Thank you to all of the faithful musicians who helped out with all of those. All year long I have found myself thanking folks for one reason or another and rightfully so. We have many, many people who have given so much of their time, efforts and talent to help our club become as great as it has. In closing that chapter before we begin a new one, I'd just like to say that it was a truly wonderful year. We don't have the final numbers and dollar amount of our treasury yet but expect to have that information by our first board meeting of the new year. I will say at this point that the numbers look very good.

As we head into the new year I am excited and optimistic that the year 2010 will prove to be better in many ways as we set new goals to work on throughout the year.

Also, remember that there are those who need our prayers. Let's pray that this coming year will be a year of healing and comfort to our dear friends and fellow musicians.
Larry Roper

NOTES FROM PROGRAM VPs

Happy New Year Everyone!

If you're looking for a place for left-over Christmas cookies, bring them on January 7th to the first jam of 2010. They will, for sure, be appreciated !!!

January 28 will be our first Winter Fest, a potluck, and Variety Night combined. Bring a dish to pass... anything you want. If everyone brings beans we will all eat beans. (It might even make us more musical !) Meat and drinks will be provided. Get your acts together. Theresa Smith will be our M.C.

We are starting a "New-Tune-of-the-Month", and January's choice will be "Red Haired Boy." Pick up your copy at the business table.

And mark your 2010 Calendar for the SSDS campout June 10-13. Carol Ann & Janelle

Cyber News

Silver Strings' new photo gallery can be found at <http://www.ssdociety.org/GalleryServerPro/> or just click on the Silver Strings home page and then photo gallery. Never before seen photos from 2009 play dates are now posted! Holiday pictures are currently being edited, so check back soon for those. Thanks to Val Losse and Bill Smith for taking photos.

Did you know that approximately 193 videos were recorded at our 15 holiday play dates? Of course, not all of these will be posted on YouTube but you can be assured that many will be! Thanks to Bill Smith for all his time and effort in videoing our events. Check out the Silver Strings club channel and its new design and colors on YouTube at :

<http://www.youtube.com/user/SilverStringsClub>.

Karen Turner, Webmaster



The TV crew again recorded our Livonia Public Library concert, to broadcast throughout the holidays on cable.

Silver Strings played 15 holiday playdates in a 17 day period from Dec. 2 through Dec. 18, 2009. We had four very well attended (ranging from 20 to 26 people) practices in October and November leading up to these playdates, in which we came up with special musical arrangements incorporating layering of different instruments, featuring different musicians as tunes progressed, call-and-answer, and ritards at the ends of several of the tunes. Making these musical arrangements work with a large group of players, without a conductor, with a changing cast of players at each playdate, and the necessity of different seating arrangements in the different venues, was certainly challenging. But our musicians rose to the occasion, and our performances were received very enthusiastically by our audiences. There were numerous amazingly nice compliments by many listeners regarding our music, and a number specifically on our arrangements and harmony. We sold over 170 CD's at the gigs in that 17 day period, most being our new Holiday Traditions CD. There were many memorable moments in this blur of gigs. People were moved by our music to get up and dance, from young children to elderly couples. At the Wayne Public Library performance, during a tune in which the harmonicas were being featured, Bob Hlavacek picked up a harmonica with the wrong key and started playing... the result was that the harmonicas stopped playing as soon as the first notes were played and other instruments had to jump in quickly to respond to the lapse in melody. After that tune, Bob said, "I guess we decided not to feature the harmonicas on that tune after all..." and then proceeded to explain his mistake to the audience. Karen Turner at that point offered her hand to Bob and Bob kissed it. Linda Losse, not wanting to be left out ran up to Bob and offered her hand and he kissed it also. Then Larry Roper jumped up and offered his hand and Bob told him to sit back down. There was uproarious laughter in the audience and among our musicians. Another memorable scene was at the performance for the Wayne Northwest Chapter of the Michigan Association of Retired School Personnel when we had just started playing Westphalia Waltz. The President of the group, Donald Quashnie was moved to ask his wife, Mary Ann to dance, and they did a truly beautiful dance that provided a very special moment that day for the audience and our musicians. Donald presented a framed certificate of appreciation to the Silver Strings Dulcimer Society, with the inscribed words "Your contribution to our membership is deeply appreciated. We hope this certificate will serve as a remembrance of a job well done." A couple of days later, I received a note from Barbara Fried, the contact person for that gig with the following written comments she collected from people sitting near her at our performance quoted exactly as people wrote them: "Totally delightful! Thank you for coming." "Super great! It's wonderful to hear the ole traditional Christmas songs, especially to be played so well." "Perfect!!! Your joy in performing is a wonderful thing to see." "Your performance was spectacular! I enjoyed every moment of your presentation. Thank you!" "I really enjoyed your music. Such beautiful sounds from your variety of instruments." Barbara ended her note with the comment, "I'm sure the whole audience loved the performances as the five persons above did." At Pine Ridge at Hayes, a resident named George Alenskaskas walked up to Janelle after our performance, looked lovingly at her dulcimer, and said "I used to make these hammered dulcimers and many other musical instruments when I was in Lithuania before the second world war. The war ended all of that." It was a moving moment.

When I accepted the position of VP/Business Manager of Silver Strings at the beginning of this year, I did that out of a sense that I owed the club something for all of the benefits I've received since joining in 2004, but not thinking this would add to my joy. I can honestly tell you at the one year mark in this position that it has been a wonderful experience for me to get to know you better, work with all of you and play music with all of you who have given so much of your time and energy in the 40 playdates this year. I feel that you have done an exceptional job and that you have spread the joy that you felt when we played music together to the hundreds of people in our audiences. Thank you, thank you, thank you !

Bert Stein



Some of our favorite moments at playdates are the "Show & Tell" at the end, when we can introduce curious audience members to a new instrument. They are always surprised to learn there are more hammered dulcimer players and builders in Michigan, than in any other state. We can thank Henry Ford for the revival and popularity of this ancient instrument here.

LET'S CELEBRATE !!!

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1..... Cindy Feigel
- 2..... Gerry Hermans
- 4..... Val Losse
- 6..... Bert Stein
- 10... Sharon McAuliffe
- 18.....Tom Meggison
- 23... Terry Avery
- 26... Kelly Kaiser



If your Birthday or Anniversary are not on the list at the 'Business Table', please write them in so we can help celebrate.

SECRETARIAL NOTES _____

There was no Board meeting and no jam in December, due to the number of playdates we had scheduled. The next board meeting will be January 7th at 6:pm.

A MEMBER'S VIEW

The Christmas Season is over. What a joyful and uplifting (and tiring) month with all of the play dates. Our concerts were received with great enthusiasm. When we arrived in the parking lot at the Livonia concert, a 3-4 year old boy looked up at me and said, "I can't wait to hear you play again!"

The most beautiful venue we played at was Trinity Lutheran Church in Detroit. It gives new meaning to "Deck The Halls". Every available space was filled with decorated trees and garland. The best part of the whole season was dining with great friends after the playdates.

The past month has been taxing for many reasons, but the members who supported the playdates did us proud. I think we were all rewarded by the responses from our audiences. 'Silent Night' was the perfect choice to end our concerts. SSDS is blessed to have the "Band of Angels" who have worked so hard for the past several years to hone our presentation to a "professional" level.

Happy New Year everyone ! Bob Hlavacek

Thank you Bill Smith & Val Losse for photos for this issue.

LEDGER NOTES _____(from our outgoing treasurer)

"We've enjoyed a jolly good Christmas play schedule and have received many compliments on our performances. One in particular stands out when a recipient of our Christmas CD commented to the giver, "I think that's going to be my favorite Christmas CD. Wherever did you get it?" It's been a pleasure to be your Treasurer and I now pass the books along into the kind hands of Linda Osgood with every good wish for a successful year.

This is a reminder to pay 2010 dues if you haven't done so. I'll send email reminders. You may catch up on dues at the January meetings. I will also have an Annual Report ready, available at the January meetings. A happy, healthy New Year everyone, and many thanks for your support this year. Gerry

JOIN THE PERFORMANCE GROUPS

January 16 & 17, Silver Strings is again invited to play for the Erie Ice Daze at Lake Erie Metropark (for about the 14th consecutive year). This is one of the favorite playdates of the year for many of the 'old-timers'. It requires only 'comfortable dress', and is very informal, much like a regular jam. If you have never joined a playdate before, here is the IDEAL one to test yourself. Remember... there is safety in numbers, so you can hide in a corner and make mistakes without getting caught.

The surroundings are interesting to explore during breaks, and it's a great place to bring your kids or grandkids. There are LOTS of fun activities for the family (sled dogs, nature hikes & workshops, crafts, American Indian lore, and more).

We also have many people who come back year after year just to hear us play. They are known to clap, dance, and sing along, and there are plenty of laughs. When the sign-up sheets go out, DO put your name on one or both. You'll be glad you did.



12 members of Silver Strings entertained with holiday songs at the Uncle Carl's Dulcimer Club Christmas party in Spring Arbor, near Jackson. It was good food, good music, and good fun... all through the day.

PLAY LIST FOR JANUARY 2010

List for 1 hour long gigs

Key	Tune	Play
D	Whiskey Before Breakfast	3
G	Red Wing	3*
G	Westphalia Waltz	2
C	Five Foot Two	4
G	Maggie	3
D	Over the Waterfall	3
G	I'll Remember You Love.-.Prayers	3*
G	Let It Snow	3
Am	Cold Frosty Morn	3
G	Down Yonder	3
G	January Waltz	3*
D	Smash the Windows	3
Em	Road Lisdoonvarna/Riding Hay	3/3
Em	Tamlin	3
D	Peek-A-Boo Waltz	3*
D	John Ryan's Polka (Karen chooses)	5
G	Columbus Stockade Blues	3
D	Hey Polka	5
D	Simple Gifts	3
D/D	Endless Medley: (Ragtime Annie/	2/2
D/G	Soldier's Joy/ Golden Slippers (Longer gig, skip & use as final)	2/2

“PURSE STRINGS” _____ (from your new treasurer)

Hi All

Well, we are off and playing in 2010 ! I would like to introduce myself as your new treasurer.

Three years ago brought my autoharp to Silver Strings, not knowing quite what to expect. I sat next to my friend, Jane Chevalier, who was my sponsor. I was immediately struck with the talent as well as the variety of instruments. My first night was one of exhilaration and awe. I said to myself, "I'll never be able to play with them.!" I'm sure I'm not alone with that feeling!

However, with the reassurance of Jane and new found friends, along with encouragement of others in Silver Strings, I was eventually able to play with the group. I now enjoy doing playdates, jams, festivals, and being part of the newly formed "Mountaineers". Its hard to believe that just a few years ago I didn't even know what a dulcimer was !!!

As you can see, I'm GEEKED about Silver Strings. I've made many new friends and have learned soooo much from this friendly group. It will be a privilege to be a board member of such a wonderful organization and I'm looking forward to another musical and fun filled year.

Linda Osgood, your new Treasurer

The Soundboard mailing list is being updated. If you need your newsletter mailed to you, please contact Sandi at (734) 663-7974.

Add for 4 hour long gigs

Key	Tune	Play
C	Winter Wonderland	3
G	March of St. Timothy	3
D	Painter's Polka	3
C	Tennessee Waltz	3*
D	Chinese Breakdown/Nelly Bly	2/3
D	Angleworm Wiggle	3
G	Red Apple Rag	3
G	Young Jane	3
D	Young Roddy McCorley	5
D	Festival Rag	3
G	Silver and Gold Two-Step	3
G	Southwind	3*
G	Bellman's Jig	3
Em	Dancing Bear	3
D	Viola's Schottische	3
G	Sophrina	3*
D/A	Maple Sugar	3
D	Swinging on a Gate	3
G	Old Joe Clark	3
G	Fanny Power	2*
Em	Drunken Sailor	3
D	Angeline the Baker	3
D	Possum up a Gum Stump	3
D	Ashgrove	3*
G	Flowers of Edinburgh	3*
D	Road to Boston	3
D	Mississippi Sawyer	3
D	Midnight on the Water	3*
Em	Missouri	3
G	Hundred Pipers	3
G	Rosin the Beau	3
D	Lover's Waltz	2
G	Nail that Catfish to a Tree	3
D	Saint Anne's Reel	3
D	Kesh Jig	3
G	Larry's Waltz	3*
D/D	Endless Medley: Ragtime Annie/	2/2
D/G	Soldier's Joy/Golden Slippers (Use as final in all Jan. gigs)	2/2
Extra Tunes		
D	Pay de Haut	3
G	Green Willis	3
C	Black Velvet Waltz	3*
* = 2 nd time: Fiddles, Harmonicas, backup; with HD's softly		

RELOCATED ADRIAN JAM

Maumee Street Jam (formerly called the Adrian Jam) is up & running, and will meet next on January 30th. For information contact :

Jack or Marilyn Mullins @ 517-254-4828
or Pennye Schieber @ 517- 547-7448



Eight SSSD members joined with Uncle Carl's Club to play live music for a Christmas Day community dinner in Jackson. The area churches work together to provide this service for anyone who needs a place to celebrate. School children make decorations & placemats, and rental companies donate linens & china. It is a beautiful display of people caring for others... what Christmas **should** be.



Historic Trinity Lutheran Church in Detroit is one of the most beautiful places we have played. The audience is appreciative, and we were given the "grand tour" which included a magnificent crèche collection from all over the world, and about 100 Christmas trees. That church **REALLY** knows how to celebrate Christmas !



Westland Senior Center enjoyed our music. Our **Wayne Public Library** concert was also a hit!



Mark your Calendar

January

11...SSDS Playdate..... 2-3:pm
Plymouth Cultural Center..... Plymouth

16...SSDS Playdate.....11:am-3:pm
Erie Ice daze..... Lake Erie Metropark

17...SSDS Playdate..... noon-4:pm
Erie Ice daze..... Lake Erie Metropark

March

19...SSDS Playdate..... 2:30-3:30pm
American House..... Royal Oak

19...SSDS Playdate..... 6-7:pm
Maple Heights Retirement..... Allen Park

NOTES ABOUT YOUR SOUNDBOARD

People occasionally compliment me on the quality of the Soundboard. I have learned an **ENORMOUS** amount about formatting on the computer over the past 5 years as editor.

While I certainly appreciate the accolades, I must recognize the combined efforts of our members. Without the help from Bill Smith, Karen Turner, Val Losse, David Smith, John McAuliffe, Ken & Lynne Ellen Kaiser, Bob Hlavacek and others who have submitted photos, people could not see what fun we have. A picture truly is worth a thousand words.

Lynne Ellen has been a **HUGE** help in gathering biographies of members highlighted in the "Getting to Know You" column. Is anyone else interested in helping with that ? She designed a questionnaire, which makes getting information easy, and it's really fun to uncover the interesting lives of those people we see but haven't taken the opportunity to know.

Each month our Board members submit an article from their position. I've occasionally received interesting articles, poems and jokes from an assortment of people: Gerry Hermans, Sharon McAuliffe, Lynne Ellen Kaiser, Marie Naster, Larry Allen, and David Smith, to name a few. Sometimes I can't fit it in immediately, but eventually it finds a place. This all works to keep you well informed regarding what's going on, to educate and amuse you, and to make my job easier. And Karen Turner's proof-reading makes me look better than I am. My **sincere thanks go to all** who have helped make the Soundboard a quality newsletter.

So... if you run across an interesting musical tidbit, **PLEASE** submit it. This is **YOUR newsletter** ! If you would like to do some research on songs we play or instruments we associate with, your efforts are **MOST WELCOME** ! If you have an idea for a regular or spot column, your input is **TRULY encouraged** ! If you know of a really good festival or workshop coming up, **PLEASE** let me know, so I can pass the word. I only have 2 eyes and 2 ears, so yours can be a **BIG** asset for the club.

Sandi Hlavacek



Our players donned Victorian costumes to play for a holiday dinner at the historic **Henry Ford Estate**, (above) and the Ladies' Tea at **Cross Pointe Meadows Church** (below) in Novi.



American House in Westland always enjoys our visits!



We have a LOT of fun at **Pine Ridge Retirement Home**.



Tom Koppin & Sandi Hlavacek sing "Silent Night"

BUCKEYE DULCIMER FEST

The new flier for the 19th Buckeye Dulcimer Festival is out. Get information from their website www.buckeyedulcimerfestival.com. Rick Thum, Tina Bergman & Dee Dee Tibbits will be the headline Hammered Dulcimer instructors, and workshops for Mountain Dulcimer, Clawhammer Banjo, Autoharp & Mandolin will also be offered.

The extended session starts March 10, running into the weekend package. This is one of the best festivals to really learn, when you spend 2 days with an instructor. **Give it a try! You won't be sorry!**

Penny Schieber

ODPC WINTER MEETING

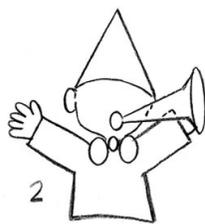
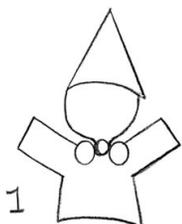
January 16th Uncle Carl's Dulcimer Club will host the ODPC winter meeting at the Spring Arbor Senior Center. At 12:30 the Potluck begins, followed by ODPC meeting and Jamming.

A_M bring salad/side dish

N_Z bring dessert

ALL bring your place setting, napkins, hot pads, serving utensils, and Baggies (if you like left-overs).

If you are not playing Erie Ice Daze that day, here is a fun alternative.



CAN YOU DRAW ME?

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

